

REVIEW OF SPORTS.

Some Brief Remarks About the Baseball Situation and the Immediate Prospects.

MAKING A VICTIM OF BUCK EWING.

Probable Results of This Week's Conference and the Expected Association Circuit.

EFFORTS TO FORM A CRICKET LEAGUE.

A Definite Offer to Reilly Gallagher to Fight Jack Fogarty or an Unknown.

Everything is slowly but surely getting into shape as far as baseball affairs are concerned, and in a few weeks more we may expect to see the national game once more on something like a business basis. The latest information from Brooklyn is to the effect that the difficulties which have delayed consolidation there have vanished, and it is not unlikely that terms of some kind will be made with A.J. Johnson to-morrow or early in the week. Altogether, as far as we are concerned, everything is going along all right, but there are the procedural hindrances and one details to deal with that nobody ever dreamt of. True, a few who have been duped in the extraordinary venture of the P. L. are looking round for victims on whom to reap some kind of revenge, and it is really amusing to find that poor Buck Ewing is the victim of two or three people. A gentleman who figured out \$250,000 profit for the P. L., says that Buck Ewing is talking about leaving that organization in July, after that great structure to its foundation. Others of lesser note than the statistician referred to have repeated the cry. Great Scott! was that great organization which was to revolutionize the world of baseball for all time and transform everybody connected with it into millionaires; was it so rotten, I repeat, that the talk of one man could ruin it even so early in the year as July? What a strange notion to make, and what a huge fraud that P. L. must have been. However, I note that with one or two exceptions those who are making most noise about the affair are those who financially suffer the least. One of the great troubles of the P. L. was that numerous outsiders invested a trifling \$1,000 each in it, and expected thereby to become wealthy baseball magnates in a very short time. As long as the expectation and its consequent enthusiasm lasted they had imaginary millions behind them, but as soon as the bubble ran short and their foolish dream had vanished they sang another tune. While other gentlemen had lost many thousands, many had lost \$1,000 in the matter, and so many more about the P. L. and spread it on, or almost all their money back, even at the expense of honest and hard work. Human nature is very, very strange.

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the Pole in a very desperate fight. Corbett was young and inexperienced then and if Choy-niski can anything like hold his own against the Australian, Corbett cannot have a poor show against Slavin. Since Jackson fought a draw with Goddard, I am inclined to think that the Australian heavyweight are not first-class by any means if we take John L. Sullivan as the standard. So far, Slavin has not met a representative American fighter. He relies entirely on his rushes, and if what Dempsey McCaffrey told me is true, Corbett can quite handily avoid a rush. On this matter I take Dumnick to be something of an authority, because for more than six rounds he kept out of the way of Sullivan's rushes at Cincinnati. If Slavin and Corbett fight in this country, then we may look out for more big contests to follow, and I would not be surprised if John L. was to reappear on the scene, although those who are his best friends should try and persuade him not to do so. I think we are all convinced that when as his best Slavin, Jackson or anybody else would have very little show to even mark Sullivan, and now that he has entered another walk of life he should remain there. His second appearance in the ring might be a failure; his first was a success.

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A Gigantic Consolidation.

During these recent deals in the baseball world it may have occurred to some that the interests of all the magnates, National League, Association, Players' League and even the Western Association, are becoming more and more one and the same. As a direct result of the settlement of this year's baseball trouble we will probably have the American Association and the National League more cemented than they ever were. I am inclined to think that some of our N. L. magnates have an interest or will have an interest in certain American Association clubs. If there are players in Washington and Chicago, that is, Association clubs, I cannot but think that some of our National League magnates will be behind these clubs. Of course, there may be nothing legally or morally wrong if baseball was altogether made into a huge trust, but I fancy I can see dangers ahead by too much consolidation. While I am not inclined to be a pessimist, it seems to me that too much consolidation will lead to rocks ahead. True, some consolidation may be good, but only if a very high moral plane is reached and retained. If this were done, a joint financial interest in the American Association and National League would be a very great benefit to baseball. There could be mutual efforts to aid each other, and certainly one organization would not undertake a policy that promised to be injurious to the other. The consolidation would be a good thing, although their paths would be somewhat apart. All this would be pleasing, but would doubtless lead to the strengthening of baseball success. Still, alas! we are only human, and that means that our best ideals are very rarely, if ever, realized.

The Suspended Amateurs.

There has been quite a stir made in amateur athletic circles throughout the country during the last few days by the suspension from amateur ranks of a large number of bicyclists, including Mr. W. D. Banker, of this city. My readers will remember that on several occasions I have discussed this question of real and unreal amateurism. Certainly, the question does not concern the well or woe of mankind generally, but what I meant and I venture to say that every honest patron of athletic sports, when I say that we are to have amateurs let us have them, and if we are not to let us waste time in definitions and qualifications. Well, I don't estimate to say that during the last few months the executive boards of amateur organizations have been unusually vigilant in trying to detect violators of amateur law. By way of thinking this is a very hopeful sign if the honesty of purpose of this

open for debate, no doubt, and I only mention it to point out the possibility of a difference of opinion. Again, it may be that some cricketers will want each city to be "open," that is for each club to select its team from the city in which it is located, whether the players are members of the club or not. I see nothing very objectionable to a request of that kind, and certainly it would at all times give opportunity to have the very best eleven in the city on the field. It is somewhat surprising, however, to go into the matter in detail yet, but I unhesitatingly say that this scheme is one worthy the support of every cricketer. There is credit due to Belmont club for the initiative in the matter, and every cricketer will be glad to see that a league is being formed. The truth is that a league is the only way to have the very best cricketers brought regularly before the public, and it is also the safest method of developing promising players into first-class ones.

A Few Words About Gallagher.

For more than three years Roddy Gallagher has been talking about his inability to secure a fight with anybody his weight. At various stages his talk became wearisome, and he lapsed in quietude for awhile. During the last few days, however, he has reappeared and stated to the whole world that he wants to fight anybody in his class and that nobody will fight him. Now, I am going to make a statement that might lead to his striking Gallagher to the ground. I am authorized to state that Jack Fogarty will fight Gallagher to a finish at 126 pounds for a purse of \$12,000. This in itself gives the battle an extraordinary feature and doubtless patrons of the ring from all parts of the world will be present. When I last saw Dempsey he looked as if he were intended to fight again. For a long time previous to a few weeks ago Dempsey was living at a rapid rate. A gentleman told me the other day that in Detroit one night Dempsey consumed no less than 111 gin foids. The gentleman who told me this statement and he referred to it to show how careless Dempsey has been of his own welfare. However, the latter has been for some time in careful training, and he can remain in the congenial atmosphere of California for more than a month yet. He is an expert man in training and I expect to see him in good condition to meet anybody. I am aware the latter thinks he will meet the short work of the American champion, indeed he predicts that he will knock Dempsey out in 15 rounds. I am free to admit that Fitzsimmons may be an extraordinary middleweight, but he must needs be something very extraordinary if he can defeat Dempsey in 15 rounds. Know of many good judges who think Fitzsimmons an expert man, and that Dempsey will defeat him. However this may be, it does seem that the Australian is getting a little over-confident. Whether Dempsey loses or wins he will give a good account of himself. Certainly, if he can beat Fitzsimmons it would be the greatest achievement of his life because of the disparity of weight, reach and strength. No doubt the Australians will get plenty of their money bet, and they will find that Dempsey will be easily settled as will be Fitzsimmons. The latter say in London that Fitzsimmons is a remarkable pugilist, but it is a fact that another portion of Australians think Doody his superior. Australia certainly cannot be full of "phenoms."

A Good Cricketer Scheme.

Last evening the members of the Belmont Cricket Club, Philadelphia, passed a resolution to the effect that a cricket league be organized for next year. The cities which will probably be invited to join the league are Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Chicago. It is needless for me to say that the idea is a good one. I mean the general idea is a good one. There is nothing that will commend success more than organized effort, and a cricket league will certainly be infinitely better in placing good cricket playing before the public than the old method of many scattered matches would be much better patronized. These matches arranged by any kind of system. For instance, we have a match in Pittsburgh, but scores of people who would go to see it scarcely hear of it simply because the match is made in a remote place. In particular or any clubs in general. In short, it is not in a race. A league would bring it before the public in the most prominent manner, because Pittsburgh, for an entire season, would be pitted against a number of other cities, and every city would increase its interest, and that increased interest would secure greater financial returns for the general principle, and might add that the Pittsburgh cricketers form the principle heart of the league. We have a number of clubs and better cricket grounds than ever we had. But there may be some of the Pittsburgh cricketers who are not in favor of the proposed league not only for the reasons mentioned, but also because it is a long jump from here to Boston, and Cleveland is much shorter. The two last named cities are not on the list. Of course, an agreement to be made at the time would be much higher than they would likely be at Detroit or Cleveland. This feature is at Detroit or Cleveland. This feature is very, very strange.

Local Baseball Affairs.

It is hardly necessary to say much this week regarding baseball affairs locally. I had hoped that the new club would have been organized by this time, but quite an unexpected opposition has cropped up among the P. L. stockholders. That club is in debt \$2,000, and strange to say, some of the stockholders want to retain their stock in the new club and have other people pay the debt. This to some appears so unreasonable that it will hardly be granted. A man who assists in contracting a debt in all fairness must assist in paying it. Some P. L. stockholders, however, don't seem to look at it this way and hence the little difficulty. Their lack of very sound judgment, it is to be hoped, matters will be all arranged to-morrow. There is one other matter that has already been mentioned, and that is the question of the P. L. stockholders should bear in mind, viz., that he certainly can demand his share of any profits that might be made in the matter. If the players have formed to-morrow I expect that Manager Hinch and Director (probably) President O'Neill will be on the road at once, leaving the club players. I have very strong hopes of seeing two or three great players here.

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